

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-20 are pending. By this Amendment, the specification is amended and claims 1 and 19 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 8-10 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Hase et al. (U.S. Patent 6,2,52,648). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hase et al. cannot anticipate or render obvious claim 1 as Hase et al. do not disclose or suggest a composition containing (a) and (b), wherein (a) is one or more perhalogenated C₁-C₆ alkanes and (b) is one or more compounds including one or more nitrogen atoms and one or more atoms selected from hydrogen, oxygen and halogen. Hase et al. disclose an inert gas supply 8a (nitrogen, helium or neon, for example; see column 4, lne 1-2) and an oxygen supply 10a. Hase et al. do not disclose or suggest any perhalogenated C₁-C₆ alkanes.

Claims 2 and 8-10 recite additional features of the invention and are allowable for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

Claim 19 recites, *inter alia*, producing reactive species of a composition, wherein a space through which the beam passes comprises the composition containing (a) and (b), wherein (a) is one or more perhalogenated C₁-C₆ alkanes and (b) is one or more compounds including one or more nitrogen atoms and one or more atoms selected from hydrogen, oxygen and halogen, wherein the space contains at least a portion of the radiation system.

As discussed above, Hase et al. do not disclose or suggest any perhalogenated C₁-C₆ alkanes.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection over Hase et al. are respectfully requested.

Claims 5-7 recite additional features of the invention and are allowable for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that McGinnis et al. and Kanekiyo et al. (U.S. Patent 5,320,707) each fail to cure the deficiencies of Hase et al. with respect to claim 1 and that even assuming it would have been obvious to combine the references, which Applicants do not concede, such combination would not have resulted in the invention of claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections over Hase et al. in view of McGinnis et al. and Kanekiyo et al. are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4 and 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Hasegawa et al. (U.S. Patent 6,225,032). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a composition containing (a) and (b), wherein (a) is one or more perhalogenated C₁-C₆ alkanes and (b) is one or more compounds including one or more nitrogen atoms and one or more atoms selected from hydrogen, oxygen and halogen. Although Hasegawa et al. discloses tetrafluoromethane (i.e. a perhalogenated C₁-C₆ alkane), Hasegawa et al. do not disclose or suggest one or more compounds including one or more nitrogen atoms and one or more atoms selected from hydrogen, oxygen and halogen.

Applicants also respectfully disagree that Hasegawa et al. disclose or suggest that the apparatus contains the composition, as alleged by the Examiner. Hasegawa et al. disclose in column 6, line 47 through column 8, line 14, that the nozzle 25 supplies gaseous molecules 26 to the backside of the water repellent layer 22 of the discharge port plate 21 to remove the byproducts 24 created by the laser processing. The “blowing” of the gaseous molecules to the “processing parts” discussed in column 7, lines 38-65, refers to the configuration shown in Figure 4. As clearly shown in Figure 4, the gaseous molecules are clearly discharged (“gas out”) away from the backside of the port plate 21, i.e. away from the laser L.

Claims 4 and 11-18 recite additional features of the invention and are allowable for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

Claim 19 recites producing reactive species of a composition, wherein a space through which the beam passes comprises the composition containing (a) and (b), wherein (a) is one or more perhalogenated C₁-C₆ alkanes and (b) is one or more compounds including one or more nitrogen atoms and one or more atoms selected from hydrogen, oxygen and halogen, wherein the space contains at least a portion of the radiation system.

As discussed above, the space in which the gaseous molecules 26 of Hasegawa et al. are created is the backside of the discharge port plate 21. The space in which the gaseous molecules are created does not include a portion of a radiation system, including either the laser 10 or the projection optical system 15. Accordingly, Hasegawa et al. cannot anticipate or render obvious claim 19.

Claim 20 recites additional features of the invention and is allowable for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 19 and for the additional features recited therein.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection over Hasegawa et al. are respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are allowable and that the entire application is condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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